



A Publication  
of the

# TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN



May 2013

## June Memphis Hearing to Reveal Local Costs of Violence Against Women, Review Response Efforts

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW) will hold its sixth public hearing on Violence Against Women, as it continues a statewide effort to gather detailed information about its cost to Tennessee communities. The hearing will be held in Memphis on Friday, June 7 at 8 a.m. at the Urban Child Institute, located at 600 Jefferson Ave.

The Memphis event will showcase Shelby County's current and former District Attorney Generals: Amy Weirich and Bill Gibbons, the latter of whom now serves as Commissioner of the state's Department of Safety and Homeland Security under Governor Haslam.

"The ultimate goal as public servants is to identify crimes, find ways to reduce the chances that crimes occur, and to hold the offenders accountable. Violence against women, whether domestic

violence, human sex trafficking or sexual assault should not exist in our society," says Gibbons, who is well-known nationally for his work in this area and chairs *Operation: Safe Community*, spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.



Amy Weirich, Shelby County  
District Attorney General

"Everyday, violence against women impacts our community. Victims suffer. Children witness. Police respond. Prosecutors enforce. Counselors heal," said District Attorney General Amy Weirich. "The hearing will present a critical opportunity for us to come together, learn from one another and commit ourselves to doing everything we can to end the cycle." The cost of these actions will be discussed during the hearing.

The TECW's state hearings will contribute to a comprehensive study that analyzes these crimes through an economic lens. The 2013 study expands the scope of the Council's 2006 work on domestic violence to include human sex trafficking, sexual assault and rape. "We have continuously viewed these crimes from a social perspective, but it is crucially important to determine how much money these needless and senseless crimes cost when it comes to developing policy," said Deborah Clubb, hearing co-chair and executive director of the Memphis Area Women's Council.

## Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks

Dear Colleagues,

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women continues to provide unique and relevant information about women in our state. The 2013 focus study on the cost of Violence Against Women (VAW) speaks to our charge to determine the economic impact of issues that affect women.

I extend sincere thanks to the chairs of each of the hearings and the members of the committees for their outstanding work. Your leadership, organization, and commitment have demonstrated your dedication to the Economic Council and specifically to the issue of violence against women.

These hearings are generating serious questions among citizens of the various districts where we have heard testimony. Additionally, we have involved members of the legislature and brought together various law enforcement, judicial and social service agencies, as well as faith-based organizations to study this issue through an economic lens.

Furthermore, these hearings demonstrate the Economic Council's statewide presence and inform our various publics about its mission and the significance of the work being done on issues relating to women.

Our last four hearings, located in Memphis, Trenton, Jackson and Johnson City conclude this component of our VAW research, but the staff will continue gathering data through other methods as it moves toward release of our VAW study in October.

Again, thanks to the members of the Council & Foundation boards for your cooperation and support.

Warmest regards,



### In This Issue...

Violence Against Women Series Travels to Memphis	1
Message From The Director	1
\$24 Million Identified in May Hearings on VAW Cost	2
E. TN Women's Leadership Summit	3
TECW & WECF Awards Received	3
Violence Against Women Dates and Locations	4



## May VAW Testimony Reveals Minimum of \$24 Million in Direct Costs; Hearings Ongoing



Crossville, L to R: Dir. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Rep. Dawn White, Vice Chair Carol Berz, Hearing Chair Jane Powers, Dena Wise, Veronica Johnson

## Upper Cumberland, May 3rd

"...we're reaching out at the community level to get real information and to bring local responders together."  
- Hearing Chair, Jane Powers

**\$1.6M**

Our Crossville Hearing on Violence Against Women revealed a local drain on government, social services and faith-based organizations. Testimony from area providers like House of Hope, the Avalon Center, Genesis House and the Homestead Methodist Church reported \$1.6 million in direct costs in 2012. This figure does not include forthcoming data from law enforcement agencies and others in the 14 county district.

**\$7.2M**  
**\$8M**

Nashville area witnesses offered a sample of the direct local expenses incurred in 2012 due to Violence Against Women that reached \$7,267,809. This figure was accompanied by numbers for statewide organizations and budget appropriations, which totaled over \$8 million more dollars. Many witnesses stressed the even higher cost of indirect, long-term results from violent crimes, like physical and psychological injuries and the ongoing treatment that they require.

## Greater Nashville, May 16th

"The 2013 hearings are revealing that domestic violence and human sex trafficking erode more than just the social fabric of our families, but also the economic strength of our state," - TECW Chair, Yvonne Wood



Dr. Leslie Halpern converses with a hearing attendee. Background: Captain Kay Lokey.



Mayor Karl Dean



Kathy Walsh




Nashville: Craig Becker, THA, offers testimony to the council.

"The numbers we heard today are just a sample of the overall costs in our regions and our state. What we can report at this moment is a small fraction of the total cost."  
- Hearing Chair, Dena Wise

## Knoxville Area, May 22nd

Witnesses in Knoxville shared information about local costs that totaled \$7,223,287 in 2012, and included expenses for Knox County law enforcement agencies,

**\$7.2M**

on-campus expenditures for crimes committed at the University of Tennessee's main campus, and for several of the legal, medical and social services provided in the area. 



Knoxville, L to R: Wendy Pitts Reeves, Dir. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Ruby Miller, Council Chair Yvonne Wood, Vice Chair Carol Berz, Pat Pierce, Hearing Chair, Dena Wise

**May Reported Costs:**

**\$24,091,096**




## June 7th Summit Brings Living Legend to East Tennessee

**T**he East Tennessee Women's Leadership Summit on June 14, 2013 will uplift, inspire and motivate professional women throughout the region. This summit at the Knoxville Airport Hilton will showcase dynamic speakers, honor Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Sharon Lee with the Lizzie Award, and provide endless networking opportunities. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Nikki Giovanni is featured as the Keynote Speaker. Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, author of 30 books and is a University Distinguished professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. As a recipient of many awards and of 25 honorary degrees, it is no wonder that Giovanni is listed on Oprah Winfrey's "25 Living Legends."

Deb Sofield, renowned executive speech coach and trainer will speak on *The Value of Your Voice*. A panel of successful leaders will follow suit, along with networking breaks, and the Second Annual Lizzie Award.

Cost for the event including lunch is \$75 before June 7<sup>th</sup> or \$90 afterwards. To register, or for more information, go to [www.easttnwomensls.com](http://www.easttnwomensls.com). 



Nikki Giovanni



Justice Sharon Lee



Deb Sofield

## Deborah Clubb & Phyllis Qualls-Brooks Recognized for Works



crime in Shelby County, Tennessee.


Clubb expressed her appreciation for the recognition and told the assembly that her work isn't possible without ongoing collaboration with many government and nonprofit organizations. "To make a real difference in the lives of women and girl victims of violence — to reduce the hurt

**Deborah Clubb**, WECF member and executive director of the Memphis Area Women's Council, received a "Voice of Victims Award" during a National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremony held outdoors at T.O. Fuller State Park on April 23rd. As the local individual recipient, Clubb also participated in a tree-planting ceremony in the park as an ongoing memorial to those who have lost their lives to violence and

and the incidents — we must work together," she said.

Nearly four dozen trees have been planted throughout Tennessee since the victims ceremony was started several years ago.



Rep. Karen Camper in celebration of the award. 

**Phyllis Qualls-Brooks**, Executive Director of the TECW received the Individual Power of Inclusion Award from CABLE, a highly-touted women's organization in Nashville. The POI award acknowledge individuals who "walk the talk" with their commitment to Diversity and Inclusion. Qualls-Brooks also received a Tennessee General Assembly Resolution signed by Speaker of the House, Beth Harwell and

## Upcoming 2013 Events

### June

**\*\*Revised: June 7, 2013\*\***

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Memphis, TN**

**June 14, 2013**

**East Tennessee Women's Leadership Conference, Knoxville**

**June 20, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Trenton, TN**

### July

**July 15, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Jackson, TN**

**July 31, 2013**

**Violence Against Women  
Hearing - Johnson City, TN**

### August

**August 16, 2013**

**TECW Annual Retreat - Columbia  
State Community College**

**August 17, 2013**

**Summer Quarterly Meeting**

### October

**October 27-28, 2013**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Economic Summit for  
Women-Nashville**

**October 29, 2013**

**Fall Quarterly Meeting**

# 2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEARINGS



TENNESSEE ECONOMIC  
COUNCIL ON WOMEN



The Tennessee Economic Council on Women will convene nine public hearings in 2013 to explore *the economic impact of violence against women in Tennessee*. From law enforcement and court costs to healthcare, social services and business concerns, violence perpetrated against women is costing Tennesseans millions, and the Council's efforts will better define that expense for use by leaders, policymakers, and advocates statewide.

## ATTEND A HEARING NEAR YOU!

### \*New Date\* June 7th - Memphis, TN

Urban Child Institute, 600 Jefferson Avenue #200  
Deborah Clubb & Kristi Stanley, Co-Chairs

### June 20th - Trenton, TN

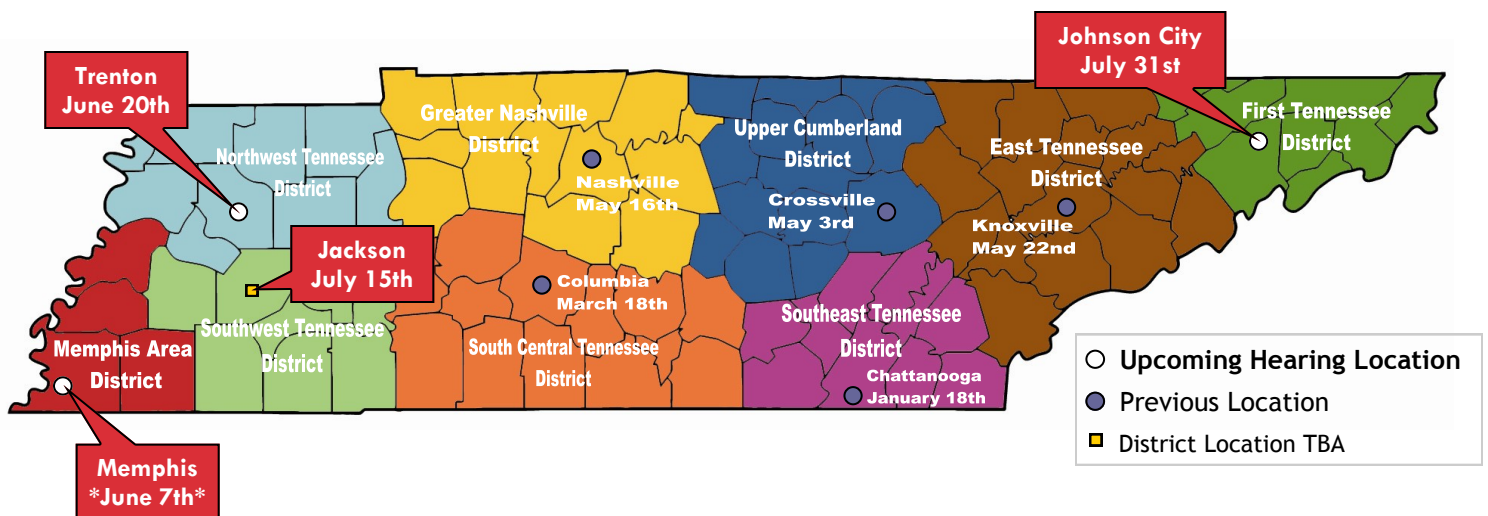
Gibson County Extension Office  
1252 Manufacturers Row  
Carol Danehower, Chair

### July 15th - Jackson, TN

Location TBA  
Kathleen Armour Walker, Chair

### July 31st - Johnson City, TN

Carnegie Hotel  
1216 West State of Franklin Road  
Elliott Moore, Chair



## Previous Hearing Locations:

- Chattanooga, Jan. 18th
- Crossville, May 3rd
- Knoxville, May 22nd
- Columbia, March 18th
- Nashville, May 16th

TECW hearings are open to the public. If you would like to attend or participate in future hearings, please contact the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at 615-253-4266 or [info.ecw@tn.gov](mailto:info.ecw@tn.gov).



A Study by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women  
Snodgrass Tower | 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243 | (615) 253-4266  
[www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org) | [www.facebook.com/tneecw](https://www.facebook.com/tneecw)